

MAY 11 2007

Appl. No. 10/731,333
Docket No. 9133M
Amdt. dated May 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed on December 11, 2006
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended herewith to specify the nature of the polymeric/oligomeric portion of the functionalized material. Basis is at page 6, lines 30-33 and Claims 3 and 11. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to specify that the functionalized material comprises both sulfonate and carboxylate moieties. Basis is at page 8, lines 16-25 and in the Examples (beginning page 17) which are both sulfated and carboxylated.

Claims 2, 3, 8, 10, 11 and 19 have been cancelled.

It is submitted that all amendments are fully supported and entry is requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a,e) and/or 103(a) over Roberts et al (US 2002/0077264).

Rejection Under 35 USC §102(b)/103 over US 5,104,584 (Kong) & §102(e)/103(a) over US2002/0103095 (Becker et al.)

The Office Action has rejected Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 12-15 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Kong and under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Becker et al.

Kong is discussed as disclosing a cleaning composition containing sulfonated lignin carboxylate and Becker et al. is discussed as disclosing a detergent composition containing a modified polyvinyl alcohol substituted with 1-10% of a combination of carboxylic and sulfonic acid.

Applicants submit that as amended, neither Kong nor Becker et al. teach or suggest the limitations of the pending claims. As such the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 should be withdrawn.

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In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action in the case is requested. Applicants' attorney invites the Examiner to contact her regarding any questions he may have in connection to the above referenced case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 11, 2007
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